BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca | Issue: 07-44 | November 2, 2007

- **Unemployment rate inches up to 4.4% as labour force growth outpaces job gains**
- **Business bankruptcies down 30% in September**
- **Price of BC softwood lumber falls 6.8% in September**

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate inched up to 4.4% (*seasonally adjusted*) in October.** The modest increase in the jobless rate occurred as the province's labour force expanded slightly more (+6,700) than the number of jobs (+5,800).

  Labour market conditions in BC as well as the Prairie provinces have been very robust of late, and all four western provinces continue to record jobless rates that are significantly lower than the national average. Although BC had the highest unemployment rate in western Canada last month, it was still 1.4 percentage points lower than the average (5.8%) for all of Canada. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The service sector picked up speed, with employment increasing 0.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in October.** Job growth was localized in a few large industries: health care & social assistance (+3.0%), trade (+2.0%), transportation & warehousing (+1.2%) and miscellaneous services (+2.0%). Trade and health care are the largest service sector employers, accounting for one in three jobs in the sector.

  The number of people working in the province's goods-producing industries contracted (-0.6%) as both manufacturing (-2.3%) and construction (-2.5%) shed jobs.

  There were fewer full-time workers (-0.2%) in October; last month's job growth was concentrated in the part-time workforce (+2.2%).

  The unemployment rate for young workers (aged 15 to 24) remained relatively low, at 7.5%, but was still nearly double the rate (3.8%) for more experienced workers (aged 25 and over). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Among the regions, Northeast (1.6%, *3-month moving average, unadjusted*) continued to have the lowest unemployment rate in the province, while the jobless rate was highest in North Coast/Nechako (7.3%), where the labour force continued to shrink (-0.4%) in tandem with the number of jobs (-0.2%).** Cariboo, which had been experiencing a similar trend, made gains in October as its unemployment rate dropped to 4.7%.

  Kootenay's jobless rate rose to 5.8% in October. Unemployment rates in Thompson/Okanagan (3.7%) and Vancouver Island/Coast (3.9%) were well below the provincial average. Victoria (3.7%) continued to fare better than the northern regions of the Island. Cariboo's unemployment rate of 4.7% was lower than in Prince George (5.5%), suggesting that workers in more rural areas of that region fared better than those living in more urban areas.

  In Vancouver, the unemployment rate was 4.2%, the same as the rate for the entire Mainland/Southwest region. Chilliwack's rate was 3.2%, while the jobless rate in Abbotsford was higher, at 4.5%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats
  Rates for Northwest, as well as some cities, are BC Stats estimates, calculated using data supplied by Statistics Canada.

The Economy

- **The number of business bankruptcies registered in BC was down 30.0% in September from the same period a year ago.** Just under half of the bankruptcies were in the construction and manufacturing sectors. Consumer bankruptcies were 13.4% lower than in September 2006. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Economic Integration

- **Earnings among young Canadian women**

Report Second Quarter Review of BC's Tourism Sector

Did you know...

In 2006, charitable donations in BC exceeded $1.2 billion, up 9.7% from 2005. Donors in Abbotsford had the highest median donation in the country at $620. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

with two immigrant parents (i.e. second generation) were 39% higher than their counterparts with native-born parents. A large part of the difference between these groups can be attributed to the fact that young Canadian women with two immigrant parents were more likely to have children than those with Canadian-born parents. Young men of a visible minority born to two immigrant parents had much lower earnings than their peers with native-born parents. However earnings of second-generation Canadian men who were not of a visible minority were no different from those men with Canadian-born parents.

Data Source: SC Cat. #75-001-XIE

Education

- **In 2005, 26% of adult Canadians used the Internet for education, training or school work.** Not surprisingly, the average age among users for education purposes was younger than those who either used the Internet for 'other uses' or did not use the Internet at all. Roughly two-thirds (66%) of Canadians who used the Internet for education, training or school work did so for research, assigned projects and academic problems. Just over a quarter (26%) used the Internet for distance education, self-directed learning and correspondence courses.

Data Source: SC Cat. #81-004-XIE

Family

- **Fathers who involved themselves in their non-resident child's life in the initial period following a separation were much more likely to remain in contact with their child.** There was also a strong positive link between the frequency of visitation of fathers with non-resident children and the regularity of child support payments, suggesting that fathers who invested their time in their children also invested their money. Involved fathers did not abandon their children regardless of later relationships that the father might enter into.

Data Source: Journal of Family Issues, 2007, Vol.28, No. 9

Film and Video

- **Despite an 8.2% drop in revenues among Canada's film and video distributors, the industry reported a healthy profit margin of 18% in 2005.** While revenues from the foreign distribution of films to theatres (-50%) and domestic distribution to television (-34%) were down sharply, revenues earned from home video sales were strong, though not strong enough to keep total revenues from sliding.

Data Source: SC Cat. #87F0010XWE

Home Ownership

- **In 2006, 76% of young adults surveyed (aged 25 to 39 years), who no longer lived with their parents, rated "home ownership" as very important.** Not surprisingly, household income was the determining factor with the greatest impact on the likelihood of owning a home. Young adults with a household income over $100,000 were 1.7 times more likely to own a home than those who had an income of $50,000-$80,000. Temporary or seasonal employment was another factor influencing home ownership among young adults. Those with temporary or seasonal jobs were 40% less likely to own their home than those with permanent employment. The self-employed, on the other hand, were 50% more likely to own a home.

Data Source: SC Cat. #11-008-XIE

The Nation

- **The Canadian economy grew 0.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in August, as both the goods (+0.2%) and services (+0.2%) sectors advanced.** The expansion was largely due to a 1.3% surge in retail trade, which recovered ground lost in the two previous months. The accommodation & food service (+0.9%) and transportation & warehousing (+0.5%) industries also advanced. The goods sector fared slightly better in August with strong growth in mining & oil and gas extraction (+0.6%) and construction (+0.5%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Prices for Canadian manufactured products inched 0.1% higher in September than in the same month a year earlier.** BC softwood lumber producers received 6.8% less for their products than they had in 2006 as a sharp decline in Interior softwood lumber prices (-11.1%) offset an increase in coastal softwood lumber prices (+5.2%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Infoline *Issue: 07-44*
***November** 2, 2007*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

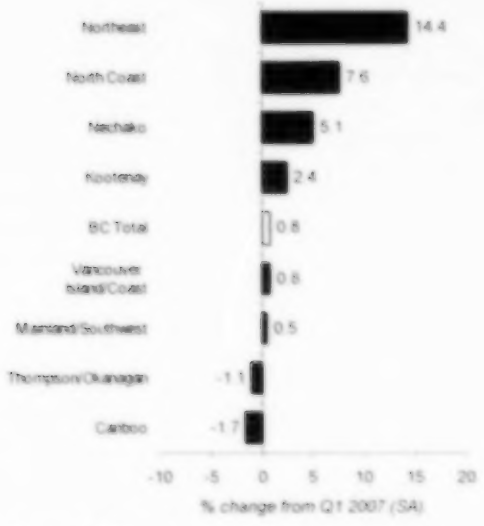
Contact: Neal Dobinson
(250) 387-1124
Originally published in
Tourism Sector Monitor Issue 07-09

Second Quarter Review of BC's Tourism Sector

Room Revenue

Room revenues showed modest gains (+0.8%) in the second quarter of 2007. Although Mainland/Southwest (+0.5%) was below the provincial average (and accounts for approximately 50% of total room revenues), the northern regions of the province were the main drivers of growth. Specifically, revenues were up in Northeast (+14.4%), North Coast (+7.6%) and Nechako (+5.1%). In addition, Kootenay (+2.4%) witnessed an increase in room revenues for the sixth straight quarter.

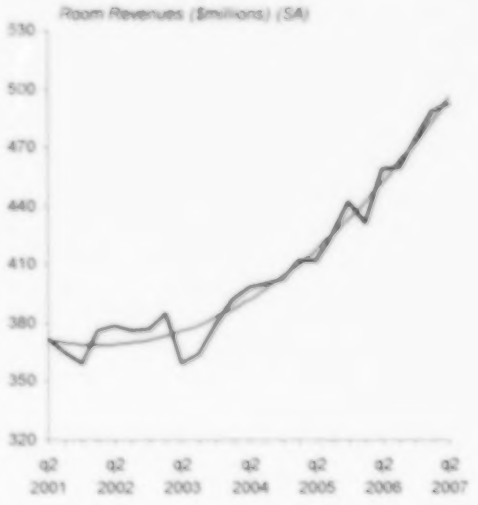
The North witnessed the largest increase in room revenues



Source: BC Stats

Room revenues in the second quarter of 2007 reached approximately $492 million. However, revenue growth was lower than the previous two quarters.

Room revenue growth slowed in the second quarter of 2007

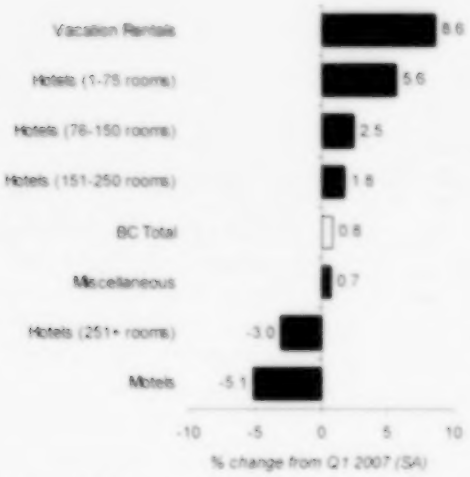


Source: BC Stats

Hotel receipts rose 0.8% in the second quarter. Small hotels (1-75 rooms; +5.6%), mid-sized hotels (76-150 rooms; +2.5%) and large hotels (151-250 rooms; +1.8%) witnessed growth. However, room revenues at very large hotels (251+ rooms; -3.0%) decreased for the first time since the third quarter of 2006.

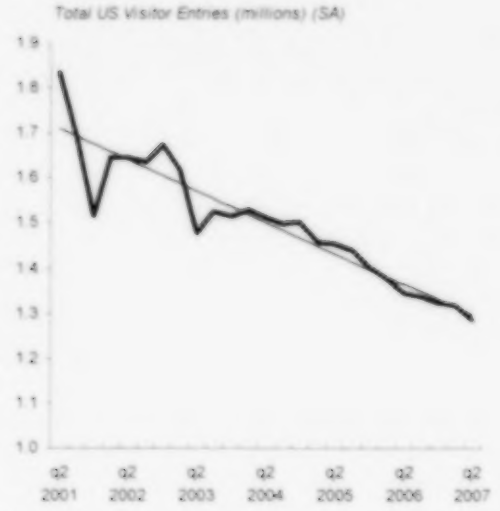
Following a strong performance in the first quarter, room revenues at motels posted a 5.1% decline. However, vacation rentals recorded an overall 8.6% increase and led all accommodation types. In addition, other types of accommodation, including bed & breakfasts, fishing lodges and other short-term accommodation, experienced a 0.7% revenue gain.

Most types of accommodation establishments experienced growth in room revenues



Source: BC Stats

US entries continued to decline



Source: BC Stats

Visitor Entries

Visitor entries to Canada through BC border crossings declined (-1.6%, seasonally adjusted). Accounting for about 80% of total visitor entries, US entries fell (-2.2%), continuing the downward trend since the first quarter of 2005. This was a result of declines in same-day (-3.1%) and overnight (-1.7%) visits by Americans.

Visits by overseas guests inched higher (+0.4%). Entries from Asia, the major source of overseas visits, declined 2.4% in the second quarter. However, this was offset by increases in visits from Europe (+0.4%) and Oceania (+10.0%), with most visitors from this region originating from Australia (+9.6%).

The number of Canadians re-entering the country via BC during the April to June 2007 period increased 1.4% for the first time since the third quarter of 2006. Canadians made more trips to the US (+1.7%), but slightly fewer visits to overseas countries (-0.4%).

Other Indicators

Hotel occupancy rates averaged 66.9% (seasonally adjusted) in the second quarter, remaining relatively unchanged (-0.2 percentage points). The average room rate in BC, at $128.20, increased 0.4% from the first quarter.

Both the Victoria (+2.6%) and Vancouver (+0.6%) airports were busier, experiencing higher passenger volumes. Traffic along the Coquihalla Highway was up 1.1%, while BC Ferries witnessed declines in the number of vehicles (-0.2%) and passengers (-0.1%).

Employment in the major tourism-related industries rose 0.8% in the second quarter. Specifically, food & beverage services (+0.9%), accommodation (+0.9%), arts, entertainment & recreation (+0.5%) and air transportation (+0.4%) recorded increases in their employment levels.

BC's restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts remained relatively unchanged (-0.1%), as an increase in revenues at drinking places (+5.4%) was offset by a decline in sales at food service establishments (-0.4%).

Infoline

November2, 2007
Issue 07-44

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/07	% change on one year ago
BC	4,380.3	1.4
Canada	32,976.0	1.0
GDP and INCOME (Released Apr 25)		
(BC - at market prices)	2006	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	179,701	6.4
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	150,741	3.6
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	34,971	2.3
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	21,984	4.8
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Aug	3,636	0.9
Merchandise Exports - Aug	2,480	-5.8
Retail Sales - Aug	4,727	-0.1
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Sep 2007)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.9	1.8
Vancouver	2.1	2.2
Victoria	1.2	1.2
Canada	2.5	1.9
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Oct '07	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,376	0.3
Employed - BC	2,273	0.3
Unemployed - BC	104	1.0
		Sep '07
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	4.4	4.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	5.8	5.9
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Oct 31/07	Nov 1/06
Prime Business Rate	6.25	6.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.25	6.40
- 5 year	7.44	6.60
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Oct 31/07	Nov 1/06
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9499	1.1315
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0585	0.8822
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Oct '07	one year ago
BC	748.87	2.2
Canada	763.91	4.1

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2006 Census Profiles

We have launched our new series of profiles. Our lookup screens are still under construction but we have provided access through a name list. Census tract profiles will be offered soon. We have also improved the access to the 2001 Census Profiles.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen06/profiles/detailed/choose.asp

Small Business Profile

A joint product of BC Stats, the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue, Small Business BC and Western Economic Diversification Canada, this annual publication provides a profile of BC's small businesses, including number of businesses, employment and GDP.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/sm_bus.asp#shp

BC High Technology Profile

The 2007 Edition of the high technology profile looks at the sector in BC through an examination of key indicators such as GDP, revenue, employment, wages and salaries, establishment counts and international trade. It also offers comparisons with other provinces and US states to give a picture of the relative size of BC's industry.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/hi_tech.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators, October 2007
- Current Statistics, October 2007
- Labour Force Statistics, September 2007
- Earnings & Employment Trends, Sept. 2007

Next week

- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 3rd Quarter 2007

BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: (250) 387-0327 Fax: (250) 387-0329 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca